



STANYS - CENTRAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

Volume: 2009-2010 Issue: May 2010

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**Have a great
finish to your
school year!**

Letter from the Chair

By Darlene Devendorf

STANYS – Value for your \$\$\$

So far this Spring STANYS volunteers – **yes, unpaid volunteer members** have:

- Facilitated a state-wide planning session for professional development with a focus on the Annual Conference in November
- Participated in the bi-annual STANYS Board of Directors meeting in Albany
- Communicated with other professional organizations in addition to the NYS Education Dept.
- Kicked into action the many members that make the Annual Conference such a successful event.
- Maintained our various forms of communication such as newsletters, emails and website
- Registered student projects and made arrangements for students to attend Science Congress (State Science Fair competition) on June 11 – 13

Isn't it great that we have members willing give of their time? Currently, the Central STANYS section membership numbers about one hundred five. One hundred five teachers of science for three counties – we need more teachers to support STANYS by being members.

One incentive to promote STANYS has been provided via the **“I wonder. We wonder. Recruit a member campaign.”** By helping to find more members like YOU, you can win a weekend getaway in the Adirondacks or a \$250 prize. Be the member with the most members recruited to win 1st or 2nd place. (There is a “referred by:” place on the new membership form.)

Lastly, I would like to share a letter recently sent to NYSED by STANYS President A, Serotsky regarding the **“Conceptual Framework for the New Science Education Standards”**. (see next page)

HOT OFF THE PRESS
Need to Reduce Costs of NYS
Assessment Program

STANYS President Arnold Serotsky attended the March 8th meeting of the Regents on this topic. [Read his notes](http://www.stanys.org/hotnews.htm) at <http://www.stanys.org/hotnews.htm>



EMAIL: KEEPING OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE!

We are checking our members e-mail addresses because we often email info or our newsletter.

If you have not been receiving information via email - if you have changed your email address or have a new one could you please take a moment to send it to Christina

Walsleben at

cwalsleben@cssd.org

Email is never shared with other organizations or vendors.
Thanks for your help –
Christina, Membership chairperson



If you would prefer to receive your **CENTRAL STANYS NEWSLETTER** in hard copy form rather than electronically, please let me know. Include your preferred mailing address in your email.

To: Professor Helen R. Quinn, Committee Chair
Heidi Schweingruber, Deputy Director of the Board of Science Education
Thomas Keller, Senior Program Officer
Kelly Duncan, Senior Program Assistant

From: Arnie Serotsky, President, Science Teachers Association of New York State

Topic:
Conceptual Framework for New Science Education Standards

As president of the professional organization representing the Science educators of New York State and Co Director of a project to review and suggest revisions to New York State's Science Education Standards, I have read with interest all of the information I can get on the monumentally important project that the Board of Science Education of the National Academies has undertaken to provide a Conceptual Framework for New Science Education Standards for the United States.

I am very impressed with the academic and professional credentials of the members of both the Committee and the Design Team. I am however disappointed in what is in my opinion an omission on these two prominent groups. There is no representative from a professional organization representing teachers of science, the implementers and key cogs in the Science teaching and learning process.

I do not believe it is too late to correct this omission, and would like you to consider the involvement of a representative of the oldest Science teacher organization in the United States, the Science Teachers Association of New York State.

I welcome your consideration of this suggestion, and am open to dialog on this topic.

Arnold Serotsky
President and Conference Co Chair , 2009 - 2010
Science Teachers Association of New York State
Co Developer - New York State Math, Science, and Technology Standards
Co Developer - New York State Core Curriculum Guide for Intermediate Science

Keep in touch via our website at:
centralstanys.org

Help Wanted

As you read on you will see that we are in **need of connections to the worlds of Chemistry and Biology**. A teacher with experience in each of these areas is needed to advise on professional development and contribute to our section newsletter.

It is time for some veteran teachers to step up to help us serve our profession and to take the place of retiring leadership (or to just give those that have carried the organization a break)!!!

We currently have several openings on the Central STANYS Board: SAR for Chemistry, SAR for Biology, a NEWSLETTER person, and a WEBSITE person.

If you are looking to play a greater role in Science Education by supporting your colleagues please make the moment to contact us. Thank you.

Darlene Devendorf darlenekd@twcny.rr.com

National Lab Day

Middle and high school teachers, do you need help with your science fair, lesson development, or someone to chaperone a field trip? What about advice on an after-school program or access to cool lab equipment? Wouldn't it be great to have a scientist or engineer share their work experiences with students in your classroom? You can join in and make it happen through National Lab Day (NLD). Visit the NLD website to learn more, sign up and submit your "project needs." Local community volunteers (university students, scientists, engineers, STEM professionals and other educators) who are participating in your NLD hub, are eager to respond. Check out "project requests" submitted by teachers who are already involved

National Lab Day (<http://www.nationallabday.org/>) is a New York-based educational organization dedicated to improving science and math education across the country. More than 200 organizations representing 6.5 million professionals and educators have already pledged support for National Lab Day. These organizations have sent a letter to the President (available at the above web address) detailing their commitment. National Lab Day welcomes new partnerships and can be reached at info@nationallabday.org.

BaP (Building A Presence) is now "Science Matters"

Science Matters builds on the success of the Building a Presence for Science program, first launched in 1997 as an e-networking initiative to assist teachers of science with professional development opportunities. Science Matters is an initiative by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to bring content, news, and information that supports quality science education to teachers nationwide. **This will work best if each school building has a "Science Matters" contact person to receive information.** To sign up as your building contact go to: <http://bap.nsta.org/>

Teachers in Cayuga County!!!!

Harris Rochester STEM Teaching Institute:

This summer the Harris Corporation and Rochester Area Colleges' Center for Excellence in Math and Science are sponsoring **nine FREE** institutes for K-12 teachers living in the following counties: *Allegany, Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.*

All institutes include a summer intensive with sustained support and follow-up throughout the year. The goals of the STEM Teaching Institutes are to provide high quality professional development and to establish a regional professional learning community committed to continuous improvement in STEM education.

The workshops are held at various locations on different dates during the months of July and August - see the website for additional information.

Connie K. Duff, Director
2010 Harris Rochester STEM Teaching Institutes
cduff@rochester.rr.com <http://www.raccems.org/>

AMNH (American Museum of Natural History): Seminars on Science

Eleven Seminars on Science courses fully online over two summer sessions (June-July, July-August). The courses are fully online and all of them are available for graduate credit.

Courses include: **The Solar System; Water: Environmental Science; Evolution; Earth: Inside and Out; The Ocean System ; Genetics, Genomics, Genethics; In the Field with Spiders, The Link Between Dinosaurs and Birds, Sharks and Rays, The Diversity of Fishes and Space, Time and Motion.**

Since the courses are fully web-based, there is no need to come to the museum at any time, and all courses are led by both an experienced classroom teacher and a research scientist.

Basic course: \$465 per course (-\$50 early reg. discount by June 7)

Session Dates: June 7- July 18 and July 5- Aug. 15

Katie Rasmussen
Manager, Seminars on Science Seminars on Science
1-800-649-6715 semadmin@amnh.org <http://learn.amnh.org/>

LIVING ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE NEWS

Central STANYS Living Environment SAR –



Cornell Univ.: ASSET Summer Science Workshop

The Advancing Secondary Science Education with Tetrahymena (ASSET) program develops and disseminates a collection of self-contained laboratory modules for use in middle school and high school classrooms. Each laboratory module is built around Tetrahymena thermophila, a safe, easy to grow protozoan that is ideal for demonstrating many of the basic principles of biology. The workshop is from **July 25 - 27, 2010** and is **free of charge** to all accepted applicants. <http://asset-program.vet.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers

Middle School Science Teacher Workshop. July 6 – 9

CIBT will provide teachers with housing in the Best Western Hotel, some of the meals, all the materials, and activities, visits and lectures by Cornell scientists and a \$350 stipend. More information is provided in the enclosed attachment and also in our webpage:

<http://cibt.bio.cornell.edu>

Molecular Biology Teacher Workshop. July 12 – 23

CIBT will provide teachers with housing in the Best Western Hotel, some of the meals, all the materials, and activities, visits and lectures by Cornell scientists and a \$600 stipend. More information is provided in the enclosed attachment and also in our webpage:

<http://cibt.bio.cornell.edu>

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE NEWS

Central STANYS Environmental Science DAL and SAR – Dr. Rick Beal



Climate change and the scientific process are both different science topics to teach for multiple reasons. I have developed a lesson that teaches students both concepts simultaneously. About 3 years ago I was sent a petition and was asked to sign it supporting the belief that global climate change was a hoax. A supporting document was provided and titled “The Environmental Effects of Increased Carbon Dioxide” by Robinson et al 2007. As you can imagine the paper contains the standard arguments that are put forth by climate deniers. What I also discovered is how easy the information and graphs in the paper can be debunked. I now use the paper as an example of junk science and ways information is distorted to confuse the public. I give students a basic lesson about climate change science and have them dissect the Robinson paper using the internet and books. High school students are definitely able to accomplish the task. They also get very excited about being science detectives in the process. I have found students really feel empowered by the process and generally look at things from a much more critical perspective afterwards. Here is a link to the paper and a link from fellow teacher conspirator Jason Williams about how science is often distorted.

http://www.oism.org/pproject/GWReview_OISM150.pdf

<http://www.skepticalscience.com/5-characteristics-of-scientific-denialism.html>

Contact me if you'd like more information: rebeal@esf.edu

SUNY ESF: Advanced Training in Alternative Energy Workshop (Aug. 2 – 5)

(2 credits) The workshop is open to high school science teachers, pre-service science teachers, and other community educators in New York State. The goal of the workshop is to provide a background in PV, wind, and other alternative energies for use in classroom education. This workshop is sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and SUNY ESF. Please contact [Dr. Neal Abrams](#) or [Dr. Richard Beal](#) with questions about the workshop. <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/summer/>

EARTH SCIENCE NEWS

Central STANYS Earth Science SAR – Joe Andrews



Earth Climate and Earth Systems: NCAR Education Online (National Center for Atmospheric Research), Are you seeking a K-12 professional development opportunity that will enhance your qualifications, competency, and self-confidence in integrating Earth system science, climate, and global change your science classroom?

Introduction to Earth's Climate (June 18 – Aug 1)

Earth System Science: A Climate Change Perspective (June 18 – Aug 8)

Understanding Climate Change Today (June 18 – Aug 8)

The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), offers a suite of distance learning courses that build upon our face-to-face professional development workshops. \$225 (additional fee for optional 2 graduate continuing education credits of \$90)
Go to <http://ecourses.ncar.ucar.edu>

End of the School Year Activities

Here are a few websites that have some great end-of-year activities/ideas for students from K-12:

<http://www.avatarize-yourself.html> You can take a picture of yourself or your students and Avatarize it, you can then e-mail it to friends/family - very cool.

St. Mary School Website

On this site there are activities and web sites to give teachers and parents ideas for activities to do with their students and children during those last weeks of school and the hot Summer months. Parents may also want to check back through the Summer to find things to do with their family especially on those rainy days.

http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/stm/end_of_the_year_and_summer_activ.htm activities

ABC Teach (online as abcteach) has a theme unit titled "End of School Year" which contains a series of activities from autograph booklets to coloring pages to a vacation planner for kids to story starters.

http://abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/end_of_school_year/

Hot Chalk Lesson Plans Page: end of the school year lessons and resources

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/EndSchool.htm>

Education World: Create a Class Yearbook

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/02/lp268-02.shtml

Skype:

To Do List - sign up for Skype and get it working before the school year starts

Sign up for Skype free and talk to your friends and family free. Go to www.skype.com and sign up/download program free. Skype to Skype calls are free so have your family members sign up too! This is a great way to keep in touch with kids going off to college this fall.

THE CENTRAL STANYS BOARD for 2009-10

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